

abdomen five yellow-green (Smith says blue-green) bands, slightly shot with red, the first being on first segment; postscutellum densely tomentose, unarmed; area of metathorax appearing as a narrow shining band, with a triangular dull apical part abruptly separated from it; second s.m. small, higher than long; hind femora not thickened, but tibiæ strongly curved. The female is evidently the same species; it has five abdominal bands, very strongly vermilion.

Nomia elegans, Smith.

Type in Wilson Saunders collection.

♀.—Abdomen with four yellow-green bands, first on first segment; punctures of mesothorax very fine and weak; anterior wings with apical dusky cloud; tegulæ pale fulvous; area of metathorax channelled, with cross-ridges; tibiæ and tarsi light ferruginous.

Schmiedeknechtia oraniensis, Friese.

I examined this in Mr. Morice's collection, and noted that it was very like the American genus *Neopasites*, Ashm., with the same hair-spots on abdomen. Head subglobose; second s.m. large and triangular; b. n. meeting nervulus. Ashmead says "labial palpi (?) 5-jointed," but it should be maxillary palpi. The genera are perhaps identical, but in *Neopasites* the mandibles are bidentate, whereas Friese describes *S. oraniensis* as having them simple.

XXX.—Notes on the Nomenclature of the Family Scolytidæ.
By Lt.-Col. WINN SAMPSON, F.E.S.

As regards the question whether this family should be called Ipidæ or Scolytidæ, it is unnecessary to give a detailed account of all that has been written on the subject, as it seems to have been entirely overlooked by Ganglbauer [Munich. Koleopt. Zeit. 1903, p. 311, footnote (sep.)] and others that Dr. A. F. Fourcroy, in 1785, published a small book in Paris entitled 'Entomologia Parisiensis,' the preface to which states that the trivial names therein were added by Geoffroy himself to rectify the omissions in his original work, and on page 139 of the first volume the specific name of "*niger*" is added to *Scolytus*.

It is evident, therefore, that the generic name *Eccoptogaster*, Herbst, must give place to *Scolytus*, as having a seniority of eight years, and, although the *Ips* of De Geer was erected in

1775, there is no rule whereby the oldest generic name must necessarily be used for the family; so that the name *Ipidæ* can quite properly give place to the much more generally known one of *Scolytus*.

* In a recent publication (Entomologisch. Berichten, cxxvi. Deel vi., 1 Juli, 1922) Herr Oberförster Eggers states that he cannot agree with me that *Stephanoderes coffeæ*, Haged., is a synonym of *St. hampei*, Ferr., and in support of his opinion quotes an abstract from the original diagnosis of Ferrari (Die Forst- und Baumzuchtsschadlichen Borkenkäfer Wien, 1867, p. 12), and another from Eichhoff's description (Ratio, Descriptio, Emendatio eorum Tomicinorum, p. 153). Both authors state the elytral clothing to be "setæ," the original adding the qualifying word "crassis," whilst Eichhoff calls them "obtusiusculus tamen non clavatis." Ferrari further emphasizes the absence of "schuppenborsten" (when comparing his species with *Cryphalus ratzburgi*, Ferr.; Hagedorn stating the setæ of his species *St. coffeæ* to be "nicht keulenformigen," and later on differentiates his species from *St. hampei* as having, *inter alia*, elytral hairs that are even less scale-like.

In Eichhoff's key to the genus he separates *St. cassiæ* from *St. hampei* chiefly by the former having "setis subclavatis" and the latter "haud clavatis." A specimen of *St. hampei* in my possession from Chapuis's collection, and which he probably received from Eichhoff, shows the setæ to be very slightly broadened; but in a specimen lent me by Herr Eggers for examination, and which he tells me has been compared with a probably ("wahrscheinlich") typical example, I found the setæ to be widely broadened as in *St. cassiæ* and other species, and I wrote to Herr Eggers pointing out the discrepancies between our specimens and suggesting further investigation. At present I am of the same opinion as before, as from time to time a large number of specimens have reached me, and they are certainly similar to the description given by Ferrari and to my Chapuis specimen.

Xyleborus fornicatus, Eichh., and *X. fornicator*, Eggers.

In the many long series of *X. fornicatus* that have passed through my hands there have been differences of size and consequent variations in the length of the elytral curve from base to apex, but no specimens that could be said to have a flattened appearance; and in the description given by Eichhoff (who is generally most accurate and painstaking) he takes particular trouble to differentiate the species from *X. xanthopus* by, *inter alia*, the fact that in the latter species the curve is

not continuous ; I am unable, therefore, to accept *X. fornicator* as a good species.

The present opportunity may be taken of deprecating the multiplication by splitting up of species except on the most valid grounds. A description of a species is not a description of a specimen only, and the practice of taking small and insignificant differences in a series for the erecting of new species only retards, instead of advancing, our knowledge. In the Scolytidæ this custom has, perhaps, been carried furthest in the genera *Hypothenemus* and *Stephanoderes*, but in all the genera the diagnostic value of colour, number and size of prothoracic tubercles, and in some genera the number of funicular joints, as well as the partial or complete division of the eye etc., depend on the examination of the longest series obtainable ; and the giving of specific value to single and often immature specimens which do not exhibit some striking peculiarities, is equally to be deplored.

The foregoing remarks have no reference to those cases where the forest expert is able to prove dissimilarity in life-history etc., as in such cases apparently trivial differences may become of the first importance.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Strasburger's Text-book of Botany, re-written by Dr. Hans Fitting, Dr. Ludwig Jost, Dr. Heinrich Schenck, and Dr. George Karsten.
Fifth English Edition, revised from the Fourteenth German Edition by W. H. LANG. Macmillan and Co: London, 1921.
31s. 6d.

SINCE the last English edition of this famous text-book Professor Strasburger has died. The original authors of the text-book, as it appeared in 1894, were Professor Strasburger, Professor Noll, Professor Schenck, and Schimper. The new English edition contains important new sections on Morphology, Physiology, and Spermatophyta, contributed by Fitting, Jost, and Karsten, respectively ; and these Professors, together with Professor Schenck, who contributes the chapters on Thallophyta, Bryophyta, and Pteridophyta, are responsible for this edition, which in the main follows the lines of the original text-book. The addition of the important new material by the authorities already mentioned makes the book of quite exceptional value as a text-book, and it will be a great advantage to students to have before them the brief account of recent literature and the exhaustive bibliography which is given by each of the four subeditors.